

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 SP-02 SY-05 L-03 SS-15
NSC-05 /061 W
-----105020 040336Z /15
R 031424Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4072
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PINS, UR, US
SUBJ: FILMING INCIDENT IN FRONT OF CONSULATE BUILDING

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 12:30 P.M. MARCH 3, U.S. EXCHANGE RESEARCHER, AND WIFE (PROFESSOR PETER CASAZZA) UPON ENTERING CONSULATE FRONT DOOR, NOTED THAT CONSULATE GENERAL FACADE WAS BEING VIDEO-TAPED BY TWO INDIVIDUALS STANDING IN MEDIAN STRIP ON UL. PETRA LAVROVA ADJACENT TO CONSULATE GENERAL PARKING LOT IN FRONT OF BUILDING. PAIR APPARENTLY HAD JUST BEGUN FILMING SINCE U.S. PROFESSOR OBSERVED MILITIA GUARDS STATIONED IN FRONT OF CONSULATE GENERAL RACING TOWARD THEM AT HIGH SPEED AND MOMENTARILY HALTING FILMING. HOWEVER, AFTER DISPLAYING LARGE PAPER DOCUMENTS, PAIR WERE PERMITTED TO RESUME FILMING WHICH INCLUDED VERTICAL PANNING OF FACADE AT LEAST AS HIGH AS FLAG LEVEL ON SECOND FLOOR BALCONY.

2. CONGENOFF WHO ALSO WITNESSED PART OF FILMING NOTED THAT ONE OF PAIR CARRIED HAND HELD CAMERA AND PORTABLE RECORDER STRUNG OVER HIS SHOULDER OF DESIGN APPARENTLY SIMILAR TO SONY PORTAPAK. WE WOULD GUESS THAT TAPE IS
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OF ONE HALF OF THREE QUARTER INCH SIZE WHICH WOULD SUGGEST THAT TAPING WAS NOT LIKELY FOR BROADCAST PURPOSES.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO IDEA WHY CONGEN WAS BEING FILMED. WHEN QUERIED AS TO IDENTITY OF CAMERAMEN, MILITIAMEN LACONICALLY REPLIED "AMATEURS" (LUBITEL'Y) AND ON BEING PRESSED, CONFIRMED THAT THEY WERE SOVIET

CITIZENS. FACT MILITIAMEN WERE NOT APPARENTLY BRIEFED ABOUT UPCOMING FILMING, AND THAT NO EFFORT WAS MADE TO CONCEAL OPERATION, COULD BE REASSURING: EITHER FILM IS TO BE USED IN SOME NON-KGB ORIENTED EFFORT OR FILMING WAS SIMPLY INTENDED TO HARASS AND MAKE US MORE CAUTIOUS IN WHAT WE DO. WE CANNOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS CONNECTED WITH SOME LARGER EFFORT TO "UNMASK" CONGEN AS CARRYING ON "ESPIONAGE" OR OTHER DUBIOUS ACTIVITY. BUCHANAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FILMS, ESPIONAGE, CONSULATES, BUILDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LENING00690
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780098-0813
Format: TEL
From: LENINGRAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803110/aaaadppa.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0aa424b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3130451
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: SOPN, PINS, UR, US
To: STATE MOSCOW
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0aa424b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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